

GARY Lebeau -

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to speak on the issue of the Film Industry Tax credit.

My name is Robin Monaghan and I am a member of Teamsters Local 671. I normally work as Truck Driver working in the greater Hartford area.

Due to the poor economy my current employment is very intermittent. For the past year I have been on layoff more than I have worked.

Last summer I had the opportunity to work as a truck driver on a movie set. This temporary employment not only provided my family with an income but also continued my Health Insurance and retirement benefits.

I know firsthand how much the revenue gained from Movie production can and does help the individual and the economy of the State of Connecticut. This temporary employment provides hundreds of families the opportunity to work instead of filing for unemployment compensation, provides Health insurance to families that otherwise would have none.

On behalf of myself, my family and hundreds of other Connecticut residents, I respectfully request that you extend this Tax Credit for the Movie Production Industry so that they continue to provide jobs and revenues for Connecticut.

Thank you for your time.

Robin Monaghan
137 Virginia Lane
Tolland, Ct. 06084

Roger Penhagson Business Agent
Teamsters Local 671
(860) 242-3200

Residence -

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South Windsor, Ct.

Robin Monaghan
137 Virginia Lane
Tolland, CT 06084

February 23, 2009

The Honorable **Bryan Hurlburt**
Representative, State of Connecticut
300 Capital Avenue
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Hurlburt:

Please accept this letter as an urgent and personal appeal from one of your constituents who is deeply concerned and alarmed that the Legislature is actively considering a repeal or severe cut to the film and digital media tax credit program.

It would be ironic to cut an effective economic stimulus and jobs program as we face an unprecedented economic crisis here in Connecticut. The program has attracted more than \$600 million in production investment to the state, companies are locating here because of it, and jobs are being created.

In other states that have more experience, studies are proving that the incentive works:

- a. **New York:** tax credit generates 19,500 jobs -- 7,000 direct production jobs and 12,500 from directly related economic activity. State yields \$404 million in tax revenue, at a cost of \$215 million in credits. *[Source: Ernst & Young; Prepared for the Motion Picture Association of America and the film office of New York State, January 2009]*
- b. **New Mexico:** tax credit created total employment of 9,210 jobs. State receives \$1.50 in tax revenue for every dollar invested in production tax credits. *[Source: Ernst & Young; Prepared for the New Mexico State Film Office and State Investment Council; January 2009]*
- c. **Massachusetts:** \$545 million spent on film production yields economic impact of \$1.36 billion. Cost to state is five cents for every new dollar of economic activity. *[Source: Massachusetts Film Office; www.mafilm.org; January 2009]*

At a time when small businesses and job-seekers are desperately looking for a lifeline in an economic downturn filled with one bad news story after another, this tax credit is just that. In my own personal experience, if the tax credit goes away, the industry goes away, and so does any chance of prosperity for me in this business in the State of Connecticut. On a personal note, my family had been living barely above the "paycheck to paycheck" routine. Last summer I was able to work on a movie set, the money that we were able to put away from that work eventually saved us from losing our house during a few unforeseen medical emergencies. Any more movie work will definitely help us and many other families get back on track and actually thrive in the state of CT.

I hope you will oppose cutting or eliminating the film tax credit, and consider strongly supporting the current program as an effective economic and jobs creation tool for the state, and beneficial for me and others in your home district.

Sincerely,


Robin Monaghan

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137 Virginia Lane
Tolland, CT 06084

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Senator, State of Connecticut
300 Capital Avenue
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

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